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THE
CAMBRO-BRITON.

SEPTEMBER, 1819.

NULLI QUIDEM MIHI SATIS ERUDITI VIDENTUR, QUIBUS
NOSTRA IGNOTA SUNT. *Cicero de Legibus.*

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.



THREE months have been brought to a close since my Proposals for the establishment of the CAMBRO-BRITON were first made public. When I embraced this project, it was not only without any communication with others, but with no fairer prospect of success than what might be supposed to result from the favourable spirit, by which our country appears at length to be animated. Relying upon so gratifying a change in our national character, I presumed to hope, that even this attempt might experience the benefit of it. For I concluded, and I trust rightly, that the general cause could not, in such a case, be separated from individual exertion, however humble and unobtrusive. The great ocean is fed as well by the noiseless stream as by the deep-sounding torrent. Nor have my anticipations been wholly unjustified by the event. The encouragement I have received *, if not an assurance of complete success, has been at least sufficient to urge me on in my career, with Hope still as my companion.

In the Proposals, to which I have above adverted, it was not my intention, as I there intimated, to give more than a general outline of my projected work. Since that time a short Prospectus has been circulated, communicating more explicitly the main objects of the undertaking. But, as the work itself may fall into the hands of those, who have not seen either, it becomes now my duty to enter into a particular disclosure of my plan, notwithstanding that the present Number may be considered, in some respects, as a specimen of those to succeed it. Yet, as

* The liberal patronage of the GWYNEDDIGION SOCIETY, both collectively and individually, deserves on this occasion my most grateful acknowledgement.

this can only be to a partial extent, it is fit that my readers should be apprized of those fundamental principles, on which I design that the CAMBRO-BRITON should be conducted. For upon the quality of the basis must mainly depend the fate of the superstructure.

My chief aim in this undertaking,—I wish particularly to premise,—is to diffuse amongst strangers a knowledge of the history, the manners, the genius of Wales, and to extend beyond her mountain-barriers the fame of those literary treasures, which are now, as it were, covetously hoarded within them. Not indeed, that there have hitherto been wanting patriotic individuals, who have generously endeavoured to accomplish this end. Several valuable publications might be named, having professedly no other object in view. But of periodical works, obviously the most desirable channel for the occasion, I am acquainted with no more than one,—I allude to the Cambrian Register,—in which the same course has been adopted. The suspension, however, if not the final relinquishment, of that useful undertaking leaves the field open to any new adventurer. And, in profiting by this opportunity, although I should myself fail, I may be the means of exciting others to the task with higher qualifications for its achievement. Even then I might be allowed to say, with the poet,

Est quoddam prodire tenēs, si non datur ultrā.

Although the Cambrian Register is the only periodical publication, within my knowledge, avowedly devoted to the purpose already noticed, I must not omit to mention, that a few others, written in Welsh, have, at different times, been established. The general aim of these works has been, we may presume, to preserve from decay our vernacular tongue, by promoting its cultivation amongst our countrymen,—a design unquestionably praiseworthy and patriotic. But I hope I may be permitted without offence to remark, that our venerable language, QUAM VETAT MUSA MORI, stands in no very urgent need of such aid. Consecrated, as it has been, by the ennobling genius of our Bards, surviving, as it still does, in its pristine vigour, the shock of countless ages, and the wreck of other tongues, it may securely be left to its own energies for its preservation hereafter. It was under this impression, that I deemed it advisable to pursue a different course from the works here alluded to, and to take a wider range. As soon may our native hills be moved from their position, as

our language cease to be spoken within their limits. It only remains then to make its excellencies known elsewhere, and to promulgate amongst strangers an acquaintance with those productions, which it has assuredly consigned to immortality.

To endeavour to effect this object will be the peculiar province of the CAMBRO-BRITON; and not merely this, but likewise to diffuse a general knowledge of the history, manners, and other prominent features of our country, from the earliest dawn of tradition to the present day. Her historical documents, her bardic effusions, her interesting Triads, in a word, her literary remains of every description, will, therefore, be, in their turns, translated, accompanied by such remarks as may be necessary for their illustration. To these will be added occasional essays, as well on the general topics just enumerated, as also upon the language, poetry, and music of Wales,—antiquarian researches,—statistical descriptions,—biographical sketches, and such miscellaneous information, as may tend to promote the main design before explained. It may be proper farther to observe, that the criticism of works, antient as well as modern, connected with Wales or its literature, will likewise have its share in the arrangement. And truly proud do I feel, that this department commences by the Review of such a work as COLL GWYNFA, at once a new honour to its distinguished author, and a lasting ornament to his country.

Nor shall the native AWEN of CYMRU be excluded from these pages. On the contrary, they will be open not only to a selection of the most celebrated strains of past times, but to such choice effusions of the present day, as I may have the good fortune to obtain. And, with this view, it will be my particular aim to collect and preserve, as opportunities may present themselves, those national stanzas, known by the name of PENNILLION, which now, like the leaves of the Sybil, are scattered abroad at the mercy of every accident, or live only in the fleeting voice of a few individuals. It was, “in these beautiful strains “peculiar to ourselves, in these instructive morsels” (to borrow the expressive words of an esteemed friend), “that the moralist “set his precepts to music, the lover sang his notes of admiration, and the heroes heard of the tombs of the warriors.”

The English Muse will also be a welcome guest, whenever she may devote her lays to the cause, which the CAMBRO-BRITON has undertaken to espouse. Such a tribute will be, at all times, peculiarly acceptable.

Another feature, and by no means the least important, of this publication, will be its attention to the religious and political welfare, to the agricultural and commercial relations, and to the other paramount interests of the Principality. Whenever these objects may claim any particular notice, I trust the CAMBRO-BRITON will not be found remiss in evincing either a due reverence for our Established Church, a loyal attachment to the excellent Constitution, of which Wales has so long experienced the benefit, or, above all, that love of country, which impels the real patriot to seek its good at any price, and to maintain it through all hazards.

It is now only necessary to intimate, that all transactions of any moment, and all occurrences of interest, having reference to Wales, will be punctually recorded. The CAMBRO-BRITON will, in this point of view, I hope, be found a faithful chronicler of the most material events of the day, rejecting indeed all matters of mere ephemeral concern, but carefully embodying in its pages whatever may deserve to be remembered hereafter.

I have thus completed the detail of my proposed plan; in which, however, such improvements will, from time to time, be made, as may be suggested by a more experienced judgment. But I wish here to remark, that every Number of the CAMBRO-BRITON will not necessarily embrace *all* the comprehensive heads of which I have spoken. The limited size of the work forbids this. And it will besides be sufficient, if, in the course of its career, the several important topics, adverted to, should receive the attention they merit, consistently with that due regard, which will be observed, in its different numbers, to the interest and variety of their contents.

This Address must not conclude without a few words on the prospect I entertain of the proper accomplishment of my undertaking. Of my own pretensions it would ill become me to speak. Singly and unassisted, I have already declared, I should be exposed to considerable risk. It has consequently formed one of my first objects to procure the aid of those patriotic individuals, whose talents and labours have been so laudably employed in the cause of Cambrian Literature. And in this, I am proud to add, I have partially succeeded. Three gentlemen, distinguished in their respective pursuits, have contributed their aid to the present number, and have thus, no doubt, bestowed upon it a value, which I could not otherwise have anticipated. To another I am indebted for the PENNILLION, which I rejoice that the CAMBRO-BRITON is

enabled to present on its first appearance. Whilst I thus express my obligation for favours received, I must not omit to solicit others. On this point, then, I will briefly premise, that all communications, calculated to promote the objects of this undertaking, will be accepted with pride, and acknowledged with gratitude.

Of the typographical execution of the work I may speak less reservedly, as I may speak without incurring the imputation of egotism. I hope, then, it will be found, that, in this respect, the CAMBRO-BRITON needs not shrink from a competition with any similar publication. A new type has been cast for the occasion; and all possible care will be taken to preserve, in the exterior appearance of the several numbers, a general regularity both of form and arrangement, so that, at the expiration of every twelve months, (if it be not too much presumption to indulge such a prospect) they may be united in one neat and uniform volume. For this purpose a general index and title-page will accompany every twelfth number of the work, as long as it may continue to merit the support of the public.

All that now remains is to take leave of my readers for the present as far as I am personally concerned. And, if I cannot do this with a full confidence in the success of my efforts to gratify them, it is not entirely without hope. I should not have hazarded the undertaking, if I had not, to a certain extent, indulged this cheering anticipation. Although I cannot now presume, therefore, to say, with the old Roman actors, *VOS VALETE ET PLAUDITE*, it shall be my invariable study so to conduct the CAMBRO-BRITON, as to be justified, to whatever degree, in adopting this valediction hereafter.

THE EDITOR.

THE TRIADS.—No. I.

OF all the antient documents of Wales, the Triads, so peculiarly national, must be admitted to be the most deserving of our attention. And those, which are called Historical, or “Triads of the Isle of Britain,” are particularly valuable, as well from their unquestionable antiquity, as from the interesting events, to which they relate. The peculiarity of their construction, ignorantly assumed by some as a ground of objection, is amongst the most satisfactory proofs of the venerable authenticity of their origin. Their very defects too, such as the want of dates and connection, bear ample testimony to the early ages, which gave them birth.